



1731

PATENT APPLICATION
Q-68394

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Heinz FOCKE et al

Appln. No. 10/069,074

Group Art Unit: 1731

Confirmation No.: 9105

Examiner: NOT YET KNOWN

Filed: February 21, 2002

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING (CIGARETTE) PACKETS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith. **Copies of EP 947445 and EP 947442 have previously been submitted to the USPTO in connection with the International Search Report supplied by WIPO, receipt of which is acknowledged in the Notice of Acceptance of Application.** Applicant lists on the enclosed PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (previously Form PTO-1449) the five references cited in the International

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/069,074

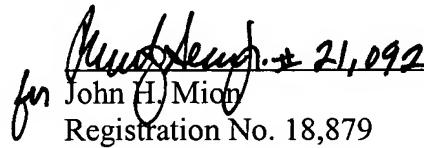
Search Report and respectfully requests that the Examiner initial these previously cited references.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Applicant encloses a copy of an opposition letter filed by TORTA Research S.r.l. and received in the EPO on May 22, 2002 for Applicant's counterpart European patent application and citing the five listed documents.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


for John H. Mion
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